[English]

Cultivable Land

4067. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large area of cultivable land in the country is lying vacant and unutilized;

(b) if so, the total area of such land;

(c) the details of various programmes launched by the Government to use such land for the agricultural purposes; and

(d) the funds provided by the Government to each State during 1995-96 for the implementation of such programmes, programme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) As per land use statistics, 1992-93 (latest available) there is about 28 million hectare cultivable area in the country (9.2% of the total reported area) which includes old fallows, cultivable waste and land under Miscellaneous Tree Crops and Groves. The cultivable waste land can be brought under cultivation by reclamation programmes.

(c) and (d) The details of reclamation of area and funds released by the Central Government to each state under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Alkali (USAR) soils during 1995-96 is as follows :

State	Reclamation of Area (000 hact.)		Funds released during 1995-96 (Rs. in Laks)
Haryana	9.92		157.00
Punjab	17.90		249.00
Uttar Pradesh	18.66		183.07
Gujarat	2.20	(Targets)	200.80
Madhya Pradesh	8.04	(Targets)	183.50
Rajasthan	2.00	(Targets)	26.60

Besides above, a World Bank assisted project on Sodic Land Reclamation in Uttar Pradesh and another EEC assisted project on Reclamation and Development of Alkali land in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are under implementation. The area reclaimed and money spent under these two project are as under :

Project	State	Area reclaimed in hectares	Money spent in Rs. Crores
E.E.C.	Uttar Pradesh	3163	17.39
	Bihar	290	3.71
World Bank	Uttar Pradesh	10332	34.69

Railway Consumers' Consultative Committee

4068. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board has dissolved Zonal and Divisional Railway Consumers, Consultative Committees, recently;

(b) whether the Board is taking steps to reconstitute the said committees immediately without any delay; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is proposed to reconstitute these committees for two years with effect from 1.10.1996.

[Translation]

Rent Charges for Waiting Rooms

4069. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minster of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the rules framed for staying of passengers in waiting rooms on the main railway stations;

(b) whether without making any additions in the facilities provided, the rent charges of waiting rooms at Shimla Railway Station have been increased by more than double; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Waiting rooms at the stations are for short duration use by bonafide passengers either waiting for the outgoing trains or arriving by the incoming trains and required to wait for catching the next train.

(b) and (c) No charges are collected for waiting in waiting room. However, the retiring-room charges have been increased at Shimla after renovating the same and providing additional facilities.

[English]

Price of Captopril

4070. DR. BALIRAM : Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether M/s. Wockhardt is selling 10 tablets of captopril for Rs. Twenty six and if so, the price recommended for this pack by the BICP in 1995;

(b) the date on which the recommendations was made by the BICP and the reasons for not acting upon the same;